

June 21, 2004

STATE COMPLETES REMOVAL OF HUGE ILLEGAL TIRE DUMP

HONOLULU – The Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH) through its contractor, Unitek Solvent Services, Inc. (Unitek), has completed the removal of a huge illegal tire dump at Luaualei Homestead Road in Waianae. Total contract cost for the project amounted to \$1,269,779. DOH will now pursue the landowners of the former illegal tire site in an attempt to recover the cost of removal.

Approximately 6,628 tons of solid waste material comprised mostly of shredded and partially burned tires were removed. Of this amount, 5,014 tons were processed into tire-derived fuel (TDF) and sold to AES Hawaii, Inc. for local power generation. Another 1,586 tons of unusable wire and residue from the waste tires were delivered to the Waimanalo Gulch landfill.

The waste tires were initially brought to the Waianae site around 1994, and processed by a company formerly known as Industrial Technology (IT). IT operated the tire recycling facility without a solid waste permit from DOH. Among DOH's concerns was that the site did not contain the necessary precautions to prevent possible fire hazards. Then on or about December 3, 1997, a pile of shredded tires on the site caught fire and caused the evacuation of several nearby homes.

IT filed for bankruptcy in August 1996 under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. The case was converted to a Chapter 7 proceeding in July 1997. On March 1998, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Hawaii District granted the IT trustees motion to abandon the property.

On December 23, 2002, DOH issued a Request for Proposals for the removal of tires from the site, and through the bid process awarded the project to Unitek Solvent Services, Inc.

DOH officials urge the public to dispose of used tires properly to avoid the health threats associated with illegal dumping. Old tires should be taken to tire retail stores. State law requires tire retailers to accept your old tire in exchange for new tires purchased. The final cost of the new tire includes the cost to dispose your old tire, regardless of whether or not you turn in your old tire. The cost to dispose your old tire is not subject to reduction or refund. Also, tire retailers and wholesalers are required by law to deliver the used tires to authorized motor vehicle tire recyclers.

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